

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An information search system comprising:

a terminal having a speech communication function, a packet communication function, and an information search function that uses a packet communication;

a center for selectively performing speech communication and packet communication with said terminal,

said center comprising:

speech control means for performing speech communication with said terminal using the speech communication function, while the terminal is performing an information search using the information search function using a packet communication;

speech recognition means for recognizing a speech signal received by said speech control means and sent from said terminal;

information search means for searching for information on the basis of the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means;

speech conversion means for converting the speech information of the information searched out by said information search means into a speech signal and outputting the signal to said speech control means, the speech signal from said speech conversion means being transmitted to said terminal by said speech control means; and

packet control means for transmitting at least one of image information and character information of the information searched out by said information search means to said terminal by packet communication.

2. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said information search means searches for information through the Internet.

3. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said system further comprises a table indicating a relationship between a self-station packet communication address of said terminal and a self-station speech communication address, and said speech control means looks up said table when speech communication is started, and notifies said packet control means of a self-station packet communication address corresponding to the self-station speech communication address of said terminal which is notified by the calling number identification notifying function.

4. (previously presented): A system according to claim 3, wherein the self-station speech communication address is transmitted from said terminal to said center by packet communication, and the relationship between the self-station packet communication address of the packet communication and the self-station speech communication address transmitted from said terminal is registered in said table.

5. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein a speech communication address of said center is designated by said center with respect to said terminal during execution of packet communication by said terminal, and

a packet communication address of said terminal which has performed speech communication with said center is acquired by specifying said terminal from the terminated speech communication address.

6. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said center further comprises communication control means for switching speech communication by said speech control means and packet communication by said packet communication means.

7. (previously presented): A system according to claim 6, wherein said terminal comprises switch means for alternately switching speech communication and packet communication, and

said communication control means performs switching operation in accordance with an output from said switch means.

8. (previously presented): A system according to claim 6, wherein said communication control means automatically performs switching operation under sequence control.

9. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said terminal comprises

a microphone to which speech transmitted to said center is input,
a speaker for outputting a speech signal transmitted from said center,
a display screen on which image/character information transmitted from said center is displayed, and
a key operation section for performing dial-input operation.

10. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said terminal comprises

radio means for performing radio communication with a base station to which said center is connected,

speech communication means for performing speech communication with said center,
packet communication means for performing packet communication with said center, and
communication control means for switching speech communication by said speech communication means and packet communication by said packet communication means.

11 (canceled).

12. (previously presented): The terminal of the information search system according to claim 1 for searching for information by selectively performing speech communication, packet communication and information searching using the packet communication, with the center, comprising:

a microphone to which speech transmitted to the center by speech communication is input;

a speaker for outputting a speech signal transmitted from the center by speech communication;

a display screen on which at least one of image information and character information transmitted from the center by packet communication is displayed;

a key operation section for performing dial-input operation;

radio means for performing radio communication with a base station to which the center is connected;

speech communication means for inputting and outputting a speech signal between said speaker and said microphone by performing speech communication with said center;

packet communication means for outputting at least one of image information and character information to said display screen by performing packet communication with the center; and

communication control means for performing speech communication during execution of packet communication for an information search with the center by switching speech communication by said speech communication means and packet communication by said packet communication means;

and wherein said communication control means for performing speech communication during execution of packet communication with the center.

13. (previously presented): A center of an information search system for searching for information by selectively performing speech communication, packet communication and information searching, with a terminal, comprising:

speech control means for performing speech communication with the terminal using a speech communication function,

speech recognition means for recognizing a speech signal received by said speech control means and sent from the terminal;

information search means for searching for information based on a packet communication and the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means;

speech conversion means for converting the information searched out by said information search means into a speech signal and outputting the signal to said speech control means, the speech signal from said speech conversion means being transmitted to the terminal by said speech control means; and

packet control means for transmitting at least one of image information and character information of the information searched out by said information search means to the terminal by packet communication.

14. (previously presented): A center according to claim 13, wherein said system further comprises a table indicating a relationship between a self-station packet communication address of the terminal and a self-station speech communication address, and

said speech control means looks up said table when speech communication is started, and notifies said packet control means of a self-station packet communication address corresponding to the self-station speech communication address of the terminal which is notified by the calling number identification notifying function.

15. (previously presented): A center according to claim 14, wherein the self-station speech communication address is transmitted from the terminal to said center by packet communication, and the relationship between the self-station packet communication address of the packet communication and the self-station speech communication address transmitted from the terminal is registered in said table.

16. (previously presented): A system according to claim 13, wherein a speech communication address of said center is designated by said center with respect to the terminal during execution of packet communication by the terminal, and a packet communication address of the terminal which has performed speech communication with said center is acquired by specifying the terminal from the terminated speech communication address.

17. (previously presented): A center according to claim 13, further comprising communication control means for switching speech communication by said speech control means and packet communication by said packet communication means in accordance with switching operation of the terminal.

18. (previously presented): A center of an information search system for searching for information by performing speech communication, packet communication and information searching with a terminal, comprising:

speech control means for performing speech communication with the terminal using a speech communication function, while the terminal is performing an information search using the information search system using a packet communication;

speech recognition means for recognizing a speech signal received by said speech control means and sent from the terminal,

information searching means for searching for information based on a packet communication and speech information recognized by said speech recognition means;

packet control means for transmitting at least one of image information and character information of the information searched out by said information means to said terminal by packet communication; and

speech conversion means for converting speech information of the information searched out by said information search means into a speech signal and outputting the signal to said speech control means, the speech signal from said speech conversion means being transmitted to said terminal by said speech control means.

19. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said speech control means start a speech communication function and transmits search information by a speech, while a terminal is performing an information search using an information search function using a packet communication.

20-23. (canceled).

24. (previously presented): A portable terminal according to claim 1, for performing speech communication and text communication with the center, comprising:

sending means for sending a speech signal to the center by said speech communication, during execution of an information search using said text communication with the center, and

receiving means for receiving information based on said speech signal from the center by said text communication.

25. (previously presented): A portable terminal according to claim 24, wherein said text communication is performed by packet communication.

26. (previously presented): A portable terminal according to claim 24, further comprises displaying means for displaying said information received by said receiving means.

27. (previously presented): A method for performing speech communication and text communication in a system comprising a center and a portable terminal, the method comprising:

sending a speech signal from the portable terminal to the center by speech communication while the portable terminal is executing an information search using the text communication with the center;

receiving, by the center, the speech signal;

the center:

performing speech communication with said portable terminal using the speech communication function, while the portable terminal is performing an

information search using the information search function using a packet communication;

recognizing a speech signal received by said speech control means and sent from said portable terminal;

searching for information on the basis of the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means;

converting the speech information of the information searched out by said information search means into a speech signal and outputting the signal to said speech control means, the speech signal from said speech conversion means being transmitted to said portable terminal by said speech control means; and

transmitting at least one of image information and character information of the information searched out by said information search means to said portable terminal by text communication.

28. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, wherein the text communication is performed by packet communication.

29. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, wherein the information searching is performed during execution of the text communication.

30. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, further comprising receiving the search information by the portable terminal by the text communication.

31. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, further comprising displaying the searched information received by the portable terminal.

32. (previously presented): A method for operating a center to perform speech communication and text communication with a portable terminal, comprising :

receiving a speech signal from the portable terminal by speech communication;

performing speech communication with said portable terminal using the speech communication function, while the portable terminal is performing an information search using the information search function using a packet communication;

recognizing a speech signal received by said speech control means and sent from said portable terminal;

searching for information on the basis of the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means, while the portable terminal is executing an information search using the text communication with the center;

converting the speech information of the information searched out by said information search means into a speech signal and outputting the signal to said speech control means, the speech signal from said speech conversion means being transmitted to said portable terminal by said speech control means; and

transmitting at least one of image information and character information of the information searched out by said information search means to said portable terminal by text communication.

33. (previously presented): A method according to claim 32, wherein the text communication is performed by packet communication.

34. (previously presented): A method for operating a portable terminal to performing speech communication and text communication with a center, comprising:

 sending a speech signal to the center by speech communication, during execution of an information search using the text communication with the center, and

 receiving information based on the speech signal from the center by text communication, wherein the center:

 performing speech communication with said portable terminal using the speech communication function, while the portable terminal is performing an information search using the information search function using a packet communication;

 recognizing a speech signal received by said speech control means and sent from said portable terminal;

 searching for information on the basis of the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means, while the portable terminal is executing an information search using the text communication with the center;

 converting the speech information of the information searched out by said information search means into a speech signal and outputting the signal to said speech control means, the speech signal from said speech conversion means being transmitted to said portable terminal by said speech control means; and

transmitting at least one of image information and character information of the information searched out by said information search means to said portable terminal by text communication.

35. (previously presented): A method according to claim 34, wherein the text communication is performed by packet communication.